GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2144
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Purchasing Power of the People
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Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of poor people in the country according to the household expenditure data from the latest National Sample Survey Organisation(NSSO) and State/UT-wise details thereof;

(b) whether the purchasing power of the people is increasing leading to change in spending habits of the people in rural areas and towns in comparison to the people from the metropolitan region in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for such change in spending habits of the people in rural and urban areas of the country?

Answer

MINISTER FOR STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION [SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA]

(a): The erstwhile Planning Commission estimated the number of people living below the poverty line from the Large Sample Surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO). The latest data of Large Sample Survey on Household Consumer Expenditure have been collected by NSSO in its 68th round conducted in 2011-12. Based on this data, the erstwhile Planning Commission estimated poverty lines and poverty ratio in 2011-12 following the extant Tendulkar Committee methodology. The State/UT-wise details of percentage of poor people in 2011-12, as estimated by the erstwhile Planning Commission, are given in the Statement at Annexure.

(b) to (d): Based on its survey on Household Consumer Expenditure Surveys, the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) gives estimates of average Household Monthly Per Capita Consumer Expenditure (MPCE) for rural and urban areas. As per the results of Household Consumer Expenditure surveys conducted by NSSO in its 66th (July, 2009 - June, 2010) and 68th (July, 2011 − June, 2012) rounds, the average Monthly Per Capita Consumer Expenditure (Mixed Reference Period) at constant prices (1987-88 base) has increased by 7.25% per annum in rural areas and 5.86% per annum in urban areas between 2009-10 and 2011-12. This shows that the increase in average monthly per capita expenditure in rural areas is higher as compared to urban areas during 2009-10 to 2011-12.

Government has given priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and to accelerate the growth rate of the rural economy. For the development of infrastructure in the villages, the Government is implementing Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. The Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing major schemes in areas of rural employment generation, rural housing, rural infrastructure, area development, and social assistance to target groups, which are intended to develop the rural areas and particularly the villages by ways of increasing the income and improving the standard of living of the rural population.

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